

2023

Mill Mountain Theatre Presents



Write Stuff!

New plays by young playwrights
7th Annual Festival: 2023

**February 24 -
February 25**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Artistic Director Ginger Poole
Directors Victoria Buck
Josh Polk
Francesca Reilly
Playwrights Julieann Howard
Eddie Kuznetsova
James Moledor

MMT STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....Ginger Poole
Business Manager.....Larry Kufel
Director of Development..... John Levin
Director of Education.....Victoria Buck
Assistant Director of Education..... Josh Polk
Education Associate/Community Engagement Coordinator.....Francesca Reilly
Creative Director of Marketing.....Ian Ridgway
Director of Production..... Matt Shields
Resident Music Director..... Seth Davis
Assistant Technical Director/Lighting and Sound Supervisor..... Savannah Woodruff
Carpenters..... Drew Callahan
Trenten Woods



Jersey Boys

March 15 - April 8

A Musical on the Trinkle MainStage

BY POPULAR DEMAND

Visit millmountain.org for Tickets

"Flying Tigers" by Eddie Kuznetsova

Directed by Francesca Reilly

Trudy	Grace Cordle
Vera	Amelia Raring
Audrey Hepburn	Natalie Thorell

"Never Asked for More" by Julieann Howard

Directed by Victoria Buck

Elderly Woman	Grace Cordle
Kira	Emma Harvey
Toja	Belle McNamara
Kiri	Amelia Raring
Kat	Natalie Thorell

"How May I Assist You?" by James Moledor

Directed by Josh Polk

Kathy	Emma Harvey
Alexa	Riley Parks
John	Brent Saunders

PLAYWRIGHTS

Julieann Howard, Writer of "Never Asked for More" Julieann is a freshman at both Burton Center for Performing Arts program and Glenvar High School. She is most delighted to be in the upcoming show this year. She enjoys singing and acting. In her freshman year of Glenvar High School she enjoys writing and reading in English class. She is excited to be in the upcoming musical of The Little Mermaid Jr. at Glenvar and BCAT's production of Oceans.

Eddie Kuznetsova, Writer of "Flying Tigers" Eddie Kuznetsova is a Junior at Independence High School. They would like to thank their single mom Natalya and all of the tigers.

James Moledor, Writer of "How May I Assist You?" James Moledor is a homeschooled junior in high school who has a passion for theater. This will be his third time writing a play for Write Stuff, having previously written Apple Apocalypse (2020) and Hidden Blessings (2022). In addition to writing, James also enjoys performing on stage. Some of his favorite credits include The Sound of Music (Friedrich), Shrek: The Musical (Pinocchio), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Snug/Cobweb) and The Nutcracker. James has been performing at Mill Mountain for over five years and cannot wait to be back on the stage. He would like to thank his family for always loving him and supporting him in all his endeavors.

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CAST

(in alphabetical order)



Grace Cordle is surviving junior year business at a private classical school. When she's not editing a student newspaper, singing in choir, teaching or playing piano, participating in church activities, or taking MMT classes, you can find her writing poetry and book ideas, reading in every spare second, and occasionally baking cookies. Her favorite theatre credits have been The Botetourt Project (2021), and playing Celia in As You Like It (2022). She is grateful to her family for their continual support and to MMT for this opportunity! Soli Deo Gloria!



Emma Harvey is a sophomore at Blacksburg High School, where she is a member of the Madrigal Singers. Favorite credits include High School Musical (Kelsi) and The Sound of Music (Marta) with Mill Mountain Theatre as well as The Secret Garden (Dreamer), Cinderella (Fox Puppeteer/Footman), The Addams Family (Ancestor), and Annie (ensemble, Annie u/s) with Virginia Children's Theatre. Emma is member of MMT's Musical Theatre Conservatory and VCT's Youth Professional Ensemble. When not performing, she enjoys playing guitar and ukulele, reading, creative writing, and cat watching.



Belle McNamara is thrilled to be performing on the Waldron stage for MMT. Belle is 10 years old, and a 5th grader who enjoys theatre, dance, reading, teaching and singing. Belle is looking forward to being part of Never Ask For More. You may have seen Belle recently in MMT's A Christmas Story, and Virginia Children's Theatre's Beauty and the Beast. Thank you to Victoria, Josh, Seth, Ginger and all my MMT mentors for this opportunity to work with you and my colleagues! Have fun at the show!



Riley Parks, a Roanoke Catholic 7th grader, is thrilled to return to the Waldron Stage. She has performed in several shows across the Roanoke Valley including Fun Home (Young Allison), Peter and Wendy (Wendy), The Sound of Music (Gretl), and The Wizard of Oz (Dorothy). She trains with Mill Mountain Theatre Conservatory, Virginia Children's Theatre YPER and the Kevin Jones Performing Arts Studio. She thanks all who have encouraged her to follow her dreams! A special thank you to MMT for the opportunity to be a part of bringing a young playwright's scrip to life. Enjoy the show!



Amelia Raring is excited to be part of Write Stuff and bringing her peers' scripts to life! She is a 6th grader at Hidden Valley Middle School and is happy to have found a home in Mill Mountain Theatre Conservatory. Amelia enjoys reading, aerial, and ninja training. She would like to thank her family for their continued love and support, and the directors for their unceasing encouragement.



Brent Saunders is a 7th grader at Read Mountain Middle School. He recently performed with Mill Mountain Theatre as "Tootles" in Peter and Wendy and was previously in Peter Pan Jr., as Twin 2. He also takes voice lessons with Susan Lewis and aspires to be a singer. You can see Brent in Willy Wonka Jr. as Mike TeaVee with Virginia Children's Theatre in April, as well as in Mill Mountain Theatre's Matilda, as Eric, in July and August. In Brent's spare time, he enjoys riding his four wheeler, arts and crafts, raising goats on the farm, and spending time with family. Brent would like to thank his friends and family for their ongoing support. Enjoy the show!



Natalie Thorell, a 6th grader at HVMS, is thrilled to be back again on the MMT stage! She recently performed as Tinkerbell in Peter and Wendy at MMT. Her favorite show she's ever done was The Sound of Music, where she performed as Gretl. She also enjoys acting in short films, most recently in "Coda Piles," by UVA Film student Pelin Marie Yirmibesoglu. You may have also seen her perform at Elmwood Park as a dance core member for VCT's Brand New Day Concert last summer. When not at theatre, she enjoys playing tennis, volleyball, and going to sporting events with her dad.

CREATIVE TEAM

Victoria Buck, Director of "Never Asked for More" Victoria is originally from Columbus, Georgia, where she spent her childhood acting, singing, and dancing in local theaters and studios. After graduating from high school, her passion for the performing arts and theatre education led her to Greenville, South Carolina, where she received her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theatre Arts from Furman University, and then on to Staunton, Virginia, where she received both her Master of Letters (MLitt) and her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University. In her time as an artist, Victoria has worked primarily as an educator and actor, serving several theaters in Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia, including the Springer Opera House, the Warehouse Theatre, and the American Shakespeare Center. Victoria is thrilled to be part of the team at Mill Mountain Theatre and loves seeing the wonderful work of all the students she is fortunate enough to teach.

Francesca Reilly, Director of "Flying Tigers" Francesca Reilly is a performer and educator whose love for theatre began at 9 years old after seeing the Broadway musical, *Wonderful Town*. A few of her favorite acting credits include Mouse from *Goodnight Moon the Magical Musical*, and more recently Junie from *Junie B. Jones the Musical*. A Northern Virginian turned Roanoke native Francesca moved to the star city after graduating from Hollins University where she received her Bachelor's in Music with a focus in Vocal Performance. This year Francesca decided to continue her studies and is currently working on her Master's of Music Education from Shenandoah University. Other accolades include a certificate in Music Theatre Performance. Francesca loves being a part of the MMT family as a member of the education team.

Josh Polk, Director of "How May I Assist You?" Josh is a performer, educator, and musician currently based in Virginia. You may remember him from his days as a conservatory student, but he recently completed his B.A. in Musical Theatre at JMU. Some of his favorite onstage credits include Musidorus in *Head Over Heels* and Antonio in *12th Night the Musical*. Offstage, he has had experience directing, music directing, and costume designing. As a teaching artist, Josh values collaboration and is committed to empowering all of his students. He is incredibly excited to be returning to MMT as a member of the education team and cannot wait to get started!

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Mill Mountain Theatre is honored to offer two annual scholarship awards for students in the Conservatory programs providing life skills and training in theatre disciplines. Both are supported by donations from friends who share beliefs about growing our future talent.

- The **John T. “Jack” Avis Scholarship** was established by MMT’s Board of Directors to recognize the service of a director and president who served MMT from 2004 to 2017. The award goes to a student of any age who demonstrates leadership.
– **Elise LeGault, 2022 Recipient** –
- The **John Sailer Scholarship Fund** is in memory of a scenic and lighting designer whose creativity impacted productions at many theatres, including MMT, for decades. The award was created by his family to enable students interested in technical aspects of theatrical productions to attend MMT classes.
– **Taylor Berenbaum, 2022 Recipient** –

For information about donations to MMT’s scholarship funds, please contact John Levin at 540-342-5761 or development@millmountain.org

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MMT Student Advisory Board

Elected by their peers and staff, the Mill Mountain Theatre Student Advisory Board provides feedback and generates ideas for existing and future programs from a student perspective, while also supporting the Roanoke Arts Community. With elected officers each semester, the SAB president attends select monthly meetings with the MMT Board of Directors, providing valuable student input and making a meaningful impact on the local arts scene.

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Mill Mountain Theatre is proud to announce that we are a Blue Star Theatre. Veterans, active duty military personnel and their families are eligible for discounted tickets to our productions. For more information, please visit millmountain.org/blue-star-theatres